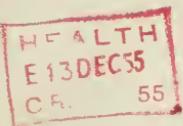


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DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1954.



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DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1954.

ULVERSTON.

November, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1954.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in acres	8,022
Population-Census, 1951	10,394
Registrar-General's Estimate of home population, mid 1954	10,300
Number of inhabited houses	3,453
Rateable Value	£43,655
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£167

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is situated in the North-Western part of the County of Lancashire adjoining the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness and the Rural District of Ulverston. Height above Ordnance Datum varies between 850 feet in the north-east to sea level in the west. There are outcrops of limestone in various parts of the District and in the past there has been extensive mining for iron ore which has left the surface considerably scarred and some of the low lying area flooded with water. Subsidence still occurs.

The male working population is largely employed in the shipyards and steelworks at Barrow and in agriculture. There has been a small increase in the number of light industries employing female labour.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for the year 1954 and for the preceding five years are given in the table on page 2.

Of the 148 births registered, 78 were males 3 being illegitimate, and 70 were females, of which 1 was illegitimate.

Approximately 73% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over and the principal causes of death were:- Heart Disease 50, Malignant growths 22 and Vascular lesions of the nervous system 17.

Year.	Live Births.	Deaths (^x 11 causes)		Stillbirths.		Infant Mortality.		Infant Mortality Non-Ital.	
		Rate per 1,000 re- gis- tered population.	Rate per 1,000 re- gis- tered.	Number 1,000 re- gis- tered.	Number 1,000 re- gis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 re- gis- tered.	No. of deaths 1,000 re- gis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 re- gis- tered.	No. of deaths 1,000 re- gis- tered.
1954	14.4	121	12.7	5	33	Nil	Nil	5	34
1953	15.2	126	12.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	6	44	5
1952	15.0	143	13.8	3	18	1	5.95	5	30
1951	15.6	170	16.5	4	24	Nil	Nil	9	56
1950	15.5	147	13.5	4	25	Nil	Nil	6	39
1949	15.6	17.6	153	12.6	4	21	Nil	6	32
Average 5 years 1949-53		15.4		13.7		18		1	
								40	-
									22

^x Live birth rate (comparability factor, 1.03) = 14.8 per 1,000
Death rate (comparability factor, 0.96) = 12.2 per 1,000

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 160 smaller towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year.	England & Wales.		160 Smaller towns 25,000-50,000 population.		Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1954	15.2	11.3	15.4	11.0	14.8	12.2
1953	15.5	11.4	15.7	11.3	14.3	11.9
1952	15.3	11.3	15.5	11.2	17.2	13.4
1951	15.5	12.5	16.7	12.5	16.9	16.0
1950	15.8	11.6	16.7	11.6	15.8	13.1

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J. L. WILD, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -
Ulverston Urban District
Council, Grange-over-Sands Urban
District Council, Ulverston
Rural District Council.

Sanitary Inspector:-

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1.
Lancashire County Council.

Other Appointments Held:-

T. W. Jackson, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Meat and other Foods Inspector's
Certificate R.S.I. Certificate
in Sanitary Science as applied
to Buildings and Public Works.

Cleansing Superintendent -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.
Housing Officer Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is provided with water by the Barrow-in-Furness Corporation in mains belonging to the County Borough Council. Dalton is supplied from Tóoka Beck Reservoir and Askern from the Ulpha Intake of the River Duddon.

The supply was adequate during the year.

The public supply now serves 3,391 houses direct and the number served by standpipes remains the same as before, namely, 13. As last year there are 21 houses supplied from private sources.

Sewerage.

The sewage from Dalton is taken to screening tanks near the gasworks and the effluent is then discharged to the Barrow Corporation sewerage system. The sewage from Askern is passed through screening tanks and the effluent discharged to the Duddon Estuary. Sewage from the hamlets of Newton and Hartin passes through settling tanks, the effluents being discharged to streams. Lindal possesses a modern sewage works and full treatment is given, the effluent being discharged into a nearby stream.

The number of houses on the water carriage system at 31st December, 1954 was increased to 3,399 by the connecting up of new houses. No conversions took place during the year and there remained 35 privy middens and 8 pail closets in the district.

Housing.

Property in the District is generally 60-80 years old, terrace type opening direct on to the street. For the most part the houses are structurally sound, but many are without modern amenities such as baths and hot water systems and some are being allowed to fall into disrepair on account of the high cost of repairs and low rents. There is a general lack of damp courses but little evidence of rising dampness.

Excellent progress has been made during the year in the building of new houses, 143 being completed by the Local Authority and a further 17 by private builders. At 31st December, 20 houses were in course of erection.

Statutory Inspections and Proceedings.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	41
	(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose.	44
2.	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1. above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	9
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	17
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	9
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	31

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.

31

Action under statutory powers during the year:-

1.	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	Nil
2.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	14
(b)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
	(i) By owners	14
	(ii) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
3.	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	Nil
4.	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	Nil
5.	Proceedings under section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(a)	Number of clearance areas represented	2
(b)	Number of houses concerned in (a)	9

Housing Act, 1936. Part IV Overcrowding.

1.	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	Nil
2.	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	Nil
3.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. Number of persons concerned in such cases.	3 6

Housing Act, 1949-54-Improvement grants etc.

		Schemes of private bodies or individuals.	Schemes of local authority.
(a)	Number of Schemes submitted (a) by private individuals to local authority (b) by local authority to Ministry Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	8 - 8	- - -
(b)	Number of Schemes finally approved Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	8 8	- -
(c)	Number of additional separate dwellings to be provided under these approved Schemes Number of additional separate dwellings actually completed during the year	- -	- -

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details regarding the inspection of food are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Milk Supplies.

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 -

No. of registered distributors operating from:-

(a)	Dairies in the district	3
(b)	Dairy farms in the district	17
(c)	Shops in the district other than dairies	1
(d)	Premises outside the district	3

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 -

No. of dealers licences issued by the local authority during 1954 in respect of:-	"Tuberculin Tested" Milk	6
	"Accredited" Milk	Nil

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949 -

No. of licences issued in respect of "Heat treated" milk.	Retail distributors.	
	(a) "Pasteurised"	6
	(b) "Sterilised"	Nil

Results of samples of milk taken in the District:-

Raw Milk:-	Number of samples.	Number satisfactory.	Number unsatisfactory.
Tuberculosis - biological tests	Nil	Nil	Nil
Methylene Blue reduction test	9	9	Nil
E. Coli. examinations	9	7	2

Meat Inspection.

During the year 1954 Government Control of the meat trade came to an end and the system of private slaughtering came into operation. Meetings were held with the butchering trade and it was felt that the town's meat supply could be maintained with supplies from the Barrow Abattoir and the Wholesale Meat Trade. As a result we have only one slaughter house in operation by a private butcher. The carcasses slaughtered in this slaughter house are subject to post-mortem examination before sale.

Carcasses inspected and condemned within the district.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	24	2	1	69	16
Number infected	24	2	1	69	16
All diseased except tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which were part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	7	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	16.7%	-	-	10.1%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which were part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the numbers of cases of the notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Urban District during the five years 1949-1953 compared with the numbers of 1954.

Disease.	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	Number of cases.	1954 Removed to hospital.	Deaths in hospital.
Scarlet fever	46	28	0	11	6	2	2	0
Measles	3	100	36	47	298	67	2	0
Whooping cough	22	1	27	18	9	58	0	0
Pneumonia	6	0	1	3	4	2	1	0
Dysentery	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	2	5	3	4	2	3	1	0
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia neonatorum	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Infective encephalitis	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Post infective encephalitis	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0	0	13	0	1	0	0
Totals	82	154	75	99	320	133	6	0

Three houses were disinfected by formaldehyde vapour, following tuberculosis, and clothing and bedding has been steam disinfected when necessary at Devonshire Road Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness.

There was a marked increase in the number of cases of whooping cough reported, the outbreak occurring during the 4th quarter of the year.

Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the numbers of new cases and mortality during 1954.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
65-	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
75 and upwards.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.	10	4	1	0	1	1	0	0
		14		1		2		0

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Dalton residents during the past 12 years.

It will be noted that there was an increase in the number of cases of respiratory tuberculosis, a proportion of these being in persons who work in Barrow and who were picked up by the Mass Radiography Unit when it visited workplaces in that County Borough.

Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1943	12	5	4	5	3	4	0	0
1944	4	4	4	1	5	2	0	0
1945	13	7	1	2	7	1	0	0
1946	4	7	0	2	2	8	1	0
1947	9	8	4	3	2	1	1	0
1948	7	10	3	2	1	5	0	0
1949	10	4	1	4	2	0	2	0
1950	3	7	2	3	3	0	1	1
1951	8	8	2	2	3	0	2	1
1952	4	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
1953	9	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
1954	10	4	1	0	1	1	0	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Written Inspections.			Occupiers Prosecuted.
		Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.	Occupiers Prosecuted.	
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	9	9	Nil	Nil	
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	34	29	Nil	Nil	

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS. 1948 - 1951.

No action was required under the above mentioned Acts during 1954.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended.

In conclusion, it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the officers of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council, particularly the Sanitary Inspector, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

On the occasion of the Annual Report on the work of the Health Department and Cleansing Service for 1954, I am happy to say that the work proceeded without any serious circumstances arising.

The time required for carrying out works of repair to property does not appear to have eased any. The various trades appear to have a considerable amount of work on their books and the labour force is not sufficiently large to carry out the work without considerable delay. The cost of repairs is still a very serious matter where the rent income is low. The number of landlords who have taken advantage of current legislation to increase the rent is very small.

Milk Supply.

All the samples of milk taken during the year for bacteriological examination proved to be satisfactory. These are not numerous since by far the greatest percentage of Dalton's milk supply is pasteurised at the Barrow Dairies.

Food Supply.

Two hundred and seventy one visits were made to various food shops in the town and I am glad to say that the general standard of cleanliness is very good.

It is this type of work where one of the greatest opportunities occurs to impress upon food handlers the necessity for scrupulous cleanliness.

The following articles of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

36 tins of meat.	4 ozs. of cheese.
97 " " fruit.	3 tins of fish.
40 " " milk.	224 lbs. of milk powder.
4 " " pickles.	4½ lbs. of sausage.
8 " " peas	100 lbs. of bacon.
5 " " tomatoes.	

Offensive Trades.

This has been a satisfactory year and no trouble has been experienced at the seven fried fish shops and the one Knacker's Yard.

Ice Cream.

There is now only one shop at which ice-cream is manufactured in this area, which is kept in a satisfactory condition.

Samples are difficult to obtain as the manufacturing process is very irregular, being dependent upon the demand at the time, and it is often necessary to make a number of calls before a sample can be taken.

Refuse Collection.

This service continues to operate without undue complaint, the Annual holidays being staggered over the summer.

I feel I must comment on the fact that the refuse is disposed of at Elliscales tip by means of crude tipping as has been the case for many years. This is a most undesirable practice and the only thing that can be said in favour of Elliscales tip is its isolation.

There are thirty five privies, eight pail closets and thirty four dry ash pits in the area, these being at out-lying premises.

During the year 40 tons of paper valued at £265, and rags to the value of £20 were disposed of.

The corresponding amounts for the year 1953 were 79 tons of paper valued at £537 and rags to the value of £32.

Housing.

With a total of 143 houses being added to the Council's housing estate during the year, we have at last dealt with the very serious cases of families requiring accommodation, although we still get a fair number of applicants. It is regrettable that the temporary accommodation at North Lodge is no longer available to the Council, as this would have been a useful intermediate stage for the housing of all sub-standard tenants.

In conclusion I am happy to record the good feelings existing between the various trades of the town and the Health Department in its activities. My thanks are due to the Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health and other officers of the Council for their unstinted co-operation and to Miss Atkinson and the cleansing staff without whose assistance the work of the Department cannot successfully go on.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W.W.Jackson,

Sanitary Inspector.

